

for him to sign; but send him the simple continuing resolution and get this Government back to work.

CONGRESS NEEDS LEADERSHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] is recognized during morning business for 3 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Madam Speaker, what this Government needs and what this Congress needs is leadership, leadership that will not play political games or brinksmanship. What we need in a time of crisis is vigorous leadership that understands the needs of the people are more important than their political game.

What we need are rational people, moderate people who will find opportunity to compromise. Is it rational to expect that the Government will have a clean continuing resolution? I think it is. It is, because really the arguments that we are making on the continuing resolution are arguments we should make on the budget reconciliation. That work has not been done.

Why stretch this argument for the American people? Already the American people have said things that are in the budget reconciliation should not be there.

Why are we giving the American people this anguish, this turmoil, when we need not do it? Why do we not step up to the bar and say there is a right way to do this, there is a right way to govern?

I challenge the Speaker to find that vigorous verbosity that he has in explaining all of the nuances of democracy, to find it by simple leadership, the leadership that says we will govern without respect to party, we will govern without respect to politics, we will govern without respect to who wins.

Actually the American people would not care who wins, who blinks first, when this is all over. But they will blame us if indeed senior citizens have to pay a larger premium. They will blame us if students no longer have opportunities to go to school. They will blame you if opportunities for the environment retrogress, if we have that opportunity and fail to do that.

These are the attributes of leadership and crisis, not to blame each other but to find how we have common good, common issues that bring us together, that is the leadership that we need in a time of crisis.

□ 0945

STOP THIS FISCAL INSANITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. PRYCE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. MCINNIS] is recognized for 4 minutes.

Mr. MCINNIS. Madam Speaker, I think that it is very important that we put today's events and the events over

the last several years in its proper perspective.

A lot of people in our Chambers think that the crisis started at midnight last night. That crisis did not start at midnight last night. This crisis has been going on for years and years and years. The old bad habits in Washington, DC, have forced this country into a position of fiscal insanity.

We heard some of the previous speakers talk about extremes. You want to hear about extremes? Compare this: Right now your Government in this country is spending \$30 million an hour more than it brings in, \$30 million an hour.

I ask the American people, how many of you out there in America can overspend your budget in the same proportion that the Federal Government has been allowed for year after year after year after year to overspend its budget? When are we finally going to stand up to this fiscal insanity, when are we going to finally get the courage to stand up and say you cannot continue to run a government like you are running this Government in Washington, DC?

If you think the people out there in America are confident about Washington, ask them if they think for their taxpayer dollar they are getting a bang for their dollar, a bang for their buck? I think you are going to find the answer is no.

Ask the American people what it is like to spend the first 2 hours and 45 minutes of every workday of their working career just to pay taxes? In other words, when they go into work at 8 o'clock in the morning, it is not until a quarter to 11 or so before they finally get to put some money in their own pocket.

Ask the American person what it is like to owe more money to the Federal Government as a result of this Federal deficit than most families owe on their home mortgage. Ask the American family what it is like to pay more in taxes than they pay for transportation, for housing, for clothing, and for recreation combined.

Madam Speaker, we have got to do something about this fiscal insanity. Now, sure, everybody said my gosh, the sun is not going to come up today after the Government shuts down. I venture to say in comparison to the fiscal crisis we have got, it is going to be classified as an inconvenience.

I hear some of my colleagues up here telling you about Medicare. It is the Democrats' position to drop the premiums. Folks, this is a fund that is in fiscal trouble. It is going bankrupt. Even Clinton's advisors, even the President's advisors, said this fund will be bankrupt if we do not do some fiscal management on it. You cannot lower the premiums right now.

By the way, if you lower the premiums, it does not lower the cost. The cost stays the same. Who makes up the difference? All the rest of the taxpayers in this country.

Folks, we have to stand up to the line and accept the responsibility, just like every constituent we have got out there accepts their personal responsibility with their personal checkbook, with their personal family, every month. That is what this is about. It is not about the Medicare issue. That is a diversion. It is not about whether or not to use the trust funds out of Social Security. That is a diversion.

The question is, will this country get to a balanced budget? Will this country operate fiscally like every family in America is expected to operate?

Most of the people on this side of the aisle say no, business as usual. Let us continue to run this deficit. But those of us, some of us who have been labeled as extremists, say wait a minute, it is not asking the impossible. It is not unusual to expect the representatives of this Government in Washington, DC, not to accept business as usual, but to demand from the American Government that we operate our budget like the American people operate theirs.

NOW IS THE TIME TO FACE REALITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized for 2 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Madam Speaker, I think the real issue this morning and over these past 11 months, starting around the month of February, is that the Republicans really do not get the message.

Madam Speaker, it is interesting that someone would argue what the American families need. I think basically the American families do very well in helping to create what they need, a roof over their heads, transportation, food for their children, and support for their elderly citizens. And anything that hinders that opportunity is absolutely wrong policy.

Basically, September was the month when we should have passed all of the appropriation bills, which would have caused this Government to continue to operate. But now I have to tell the Federal employees who took their day off on Saturday and joined me with my congressional office in a local grocery store and worked on their holiday, those from Social Security, IRS, and the Veterans Administration, that they do not matter; the services that they provide to veterans and the senior citizens and people who need and have concerns about Internal Revenue Service issues, that they do not count.

I think what we should recognize is that we have been negotiating. In fact, the Democratic leader said just last night, let us pass a 24-hour continuing resolution so that we can keep the doors of this Government open. It was rejected by the Republican leadership.

Now is the time to face reality. The reality is that we do have the opportunity to create a budget that reflects

and respects senior citizens, the environment, education of our children, key issues that move this country toward the 21st century, not misdirected ideas and policies that undermine what this country should stand for.

The Republicans again do not get it. Democrats are prepared to engage in a bipartisan discussion of keeping this Government going, balancing the budget. But do not scare the American people with false exaggeration regarding the deficit. We know the deficit has come down. We also know the American people know the difference between credit and the need to pay as you go which is their Government's responsibility.

Madam Speaker, I just ask, let us come to the table of reconciliation, pass a clean continuing resolution, keep the Government open, and make sure that the American people in this battle win, and not continue to foster confusion upon our constituents.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House of May 12, 1995, morning hour debate may not continue beyond 9:50 a.m. Accordingly, pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the House will stand in recess until 10 a.m.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 50 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

□ 1000

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MYRICK) at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

Rev. Dr. David Burr, pastor emeritus, First Presbyterian Church, Winston-Salem, NC, offered the following prayer:

O merciful God, in this season of thanksgiving, we humble ourselves before You and give thanks. Thanksgiving for this blessed land; thanksgiving for this special place and these chosen leaders; thanksgiving for the freedom to debate and represent the people; thanksgiving for our homes and families; thanksgiving for Your eternal presence.

As we give thanks O God, we acknowledge that we are prone to all the weaknesses of human character.

We are selfish, and often think our ways are always the best ways.

Therefore, we ask for wisdom and guidance; we ask for courage that we may be faithful; we ask for patience that we may be fair; we ask for health that we may complete the task before us.

And, O gracious God, we pray for peace, peace in the world, peace in our Nation, and peace in our hearts.

With thanksgiving. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Ohio [Ms. PRYCE] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance?

Ms. PRYCE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 2491), "An Act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 105 of the concurrent resolution in the budget for fiscal year 1996," disagreed to by the House, agrees to the conference asked by the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appointed the following Members to be the conferees on the part of the Senate, with instructions:

From the Committee on the Budget for the consideration of all titles: Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. EXON.

From the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry for the consideration of title I: Mr. LUGAR, Mr. DOLE, Mr. HELMS (for consideration of section 1113 and subtitle D), Mr. COCHRAN (except for consideration of sections 1106, 1108, 1113, and subtitle D), Mr. CRAIG (for consideration of sections 1106 and 1108), Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. PRYOR.

From the Committee on Armed Services for the consideration of title II: Mr. THURMOND, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. BINGAMAN.

From the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs for the consideration of title III: Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. GRAMM, and Mr. SARBANES.

From the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation for the consideration of title IV: Mr. PRESSLER, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. HOLLINGS, and Mr. INOUE.

From the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for the consideration of title V: Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. HATFIELD, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. JOHNSTON, Mr. BUMPERS, and Mr. FORD.

From the Committee on Environment and Public Works for the consideration of title VI: Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. SMITH, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mr. REID.

From the Committee on Finance for the consideration of title VII and title XII: Mr. ROTH, Mr. DOLE, and Mr. MOYNIHAN.

From the Committee on Governmental Affairs for the consideration of title VIII (and for consideration of the title of the House bill relating solely to abolishing the Department of Commerce): Mr. STEVENS, Mr. COHEN, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. GLENN, and Mr. PRYOR.

From the Committee on the Judiciary for the consideration of title IX: Mr. HATCH, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. BIDEN.

From the Committee on Labor and Human Resources for the consideration of title X: Mrs. KASSEBAUM, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. COATS, Mr. FRIST, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. PELL, and Mr. SIMON (for ERISA and other matters).

From the Committee on Veteran Affairs for the consideration of title XI: Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. ROCKEFELLER.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 103-322, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic leader, announces the appointment of Gilbert L. Gallegos, of New Mexico, to the National Commission to Support Law Enforcement.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will recognize fifteen 1-minutes on each side.

WELCOME TO DR. DAVID BURR

(Mr. BURR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURR. Madam Speaker, as is tradition in the House, I have the honor this morning of introducing our guest Chaplain. Dr. David Burr attended Princeton Theological Seminary after serving in World War II as a frogman in our Navy.

He has served Presbyterian churches in Charlottesville, VA; Norfolk, VA, and retired in a church in Winston-Salem, NC, during his 43 years in the ministry.

David Burr served as the chairman of the Southern Presbyterian Church and on the board of trustees at Davidson University.

Today is indeed a special one for me, because our guest Chaplain watched me take my first step, was there on my first day of school, and served as my roll model in life. David Burr is indeed my father, but he is also my best friend. I am honored today, Dad, to welcome you to the U.S. House of Representatives.

THE PRESIDENT SHOULD STAND FAST

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I spoke earlier about the fact that I was